closely by the RBI and steps are taken, as and when necessary, to counter speculative pressures against the rupee and to maintain orderly foreign exchange market conditions.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

5028. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserve has been continually decreasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of decrease in this reserve during each of the last two years and month-wise details during 1997 as on April, 1997 alongwith the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the foreign exchange reserve position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs) had declined from US $ 20809 million at end March 1995 to US $ 15943 million at end February 1996, because of the steep rise in imports, moderation in capital inflows and a sizeable increase in servicing of external debt. However, from March 1996,foreign exchange reserves, increased continuously to reach a level of US $ 22367 million at end March 1997 and further to US $ 22659 million at end April 1997. The monthly trend in foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs) from March 1995 to April 1997 is given in the Statement attached.

Statement

The monthly trend in foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs)

Month/Year	Foreign Exchange Reserves (in US $ million)
1	2
March, 1995	20809
April, 1995	20454
May, 1995	20267
June, 1995	19601
July, 1995	19882
August, 1995	18990
September, 1995	19064
October, 1995	17753
November, 1995	17335
December, 1995	17467
January, 1996	16310
February, 1996	15943
March, 1996	17044
April, 1996	17088
May, 1996	17105
June, 1996	17526
July, 1996	17940
August, 1996	17976
September, 1996	18433
October, 1996	19177
November, 1996	19388
December, 1996	19742
January, 1997	19848
February, 1997	19695
March, 1997	22367
April, 1997*	22659

*Provisional

[Translation]

Short Denomination Notes

5029. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the currency notes of the denominations of Re. one, Rs. two, Rs. five and Rs. ten printed during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The details of the currency/bank notes of the denominations of Re.1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 printed during each of the last three years are as under :

Denomination	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(figures in million)		
Re. 1	40	–	–
Rs. 2	91	–	–
Rs. 5	480	157	–
Rs. 10	2632	2571	2883
Total	3243	2728	2883

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission Report

5030. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the M/s. Bahari Brothers, (publishers and

printers) have reprinted the report of the Fifth Pay Commission and sold at exorbitant price in the market;

(b) if so, the royalty fee charged by the Government and terms and conditions for awarding the contract; and

(c) if not, the punitive action taken/proposed to be taken against the publishers and printer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) It has come to the notice of the Government that M/s. Bahari Brothers have printed the report of the Fifth Pay Commission without the permission of the Government. Suitable action is being taken in the matter.

Sick Units

5031. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sick heavy, medium and small scale industrial units in each State and the outstanding bank credits involved in such units;

(b) whether such sick units have increased during 1990-96;

(c) the number of such units considered to be viable and the Bank Credits involved in such viable units State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposed to give further assistance to viable units for revival; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Agreement between VSP and APSEB

5032. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board for sale of surplus power in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down in the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) An agreement has been signed between Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)/Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) on 24.3.1997 for sale of RINL's surplus power to the APSEB. As per the agreement RINL/VSP is required to supply a firm power of 24 MW net at 85% PLF from its captive power plant (i.e. 15.30 million units per month during the first year of agreement i.e. from the consumption month of January 1997) and 30 MW net @ 85% of PLF i.e. 18.36 MW/month from 2nd year onwards i.e from consumption month of January, 1998

NAM Meeting

5033. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Taliban Government have protested for inviting representatives of the deposed Afghan President Rabbani to the Non Aligned Movement meeting held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the political implications involved therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) We have seen a Taliban statement which was critical of the invitation extended by India as host country to the Government of President Rabbani to participate in the NAM Foreign Ministers Meeting which was held in New Delhi in April 1997. Mrs. Abdul Rahim Gafoorzai, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs represented the Islamic State of Afghanistan. His credentials were not challenged by any Member State participating in the Meeting. The representative of President Rabbani continues to occupy the Afghan Chair at the UN. India's decision was therefore in keeping with international practice.

BIFR

5034. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :
COL. RAO RAM SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has warned the banks and Financial Institutions to be more vigilant to ensure implementation of revival schemes sanctioned by the Board;

(b) if so, whether any cell has been set up to monitor the half yearly progress report to be submitted by the sick industries/units;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has a Monitoring Division which monitors the implementation of the revival schemes. The monitoring agencies and sick industrial companies concerned are required to send to the BIFR half-yearly progress reports regarding the implementation of revival schemes. BIFR held a meeting of the representatives of the monitoring agencies recently to discuss measures for further improving the monitoring of the implementation of revival schemes.

(d) Does not arise.

Kashmir Issue

5035. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out any package to deal with the Kashmir problem; and